

REMARKS

Claims 1-9, 11-17, and 19-20 are pending in this application after this amendment. Claims 1 and 13 are independent. In light of the amendments and remarks included herein, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 6-9, 12-13, 17, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Yumoto (USP 5,640,525); rejected claims 2-5 and 14-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yumoto in view of Choquette (USP 6,530,011); and rejected claims 11 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yumoto in view of Hennessy. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for indicating claims 10 and 18 include allowable subject matter.

By this amendment, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 13 to include the elements of allowable claims 10 and 18, respectively. These amendments are being made without conceding the propriety of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to timely advance prosecution of the present application. Applicants have further canceled claims 10 and 18 without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter included therein.

As the Examiner has indicated that claims 10 and 18 include allowable subject matter, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are now in proper form for allowance.

Application No. 09/833,653
Amendment dated August 3, 2005
Reply to Office Action of May 3, 2005

Docket No.: 0033-0707P

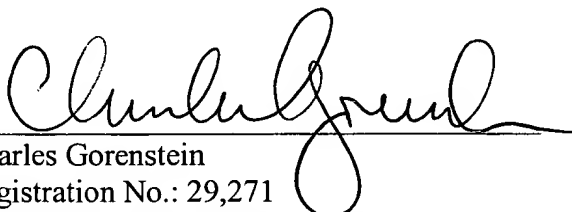
Conclusion

All objections and rejections raised in the Office Action having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Catherine M. Voisinet (Reg. No. 52,327) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: August 3, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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